Renewal applications for export house certificates

1011. SHRI SHIV PRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the number of applications for renewal Export House Certificates received and the number of 3 years approvals granted under the threshold fixed under 1988-91 Import Policy, in respect of earlier Certificates which expired on 31-3-1988, 31-3-1989 and 31.3.1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Renewal of Export House Certificates or new Certificates are given on the basis of the realisation of the threshold in net foreign exchange terms during the provious three year period. The benefits of Export House Certificates are on prospective basis. The Policy period of 1988-91 was reduced to 2 years i.e., upto 1990 only. Fresh threshold was fixed for the new policy period 1990-93.

Applications for the curtailed Policy period were received during 1988-89 and 1989-90 as per table given below. As the threshold was revised upwards for the policy period 1990-93, therefore, the applications received for renewal during 1990-91 were governed by the provisions of the revised policy.

	1988-89	1989-90
1. No. of applications received in respect of Certificates expired on 31-3-1988 and 31-3-1989	92	178
2. No. of 3 years Export House Certificates issued out of Col. 1 above	73	147

Changes in patent legislation

1012. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make changes in patent legislation; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of wheat to foreign countries

1013. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries which propose to import wheat from India;

(b) what quantity of wheat imported by each of those countries during 1990 and 1991, till-date;

(c) whether Government have received any complaint from any of those countries about the inferior quality of wheat exported to these countries; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) DPR Korea, Sudan, Jordan, Oman, Malaysia and U.A.E.

(b) A statement is attached. (See below).

(c) and (d) Only one complaint alleging presence of live weevils in the wheat was received from Jordan. The exporting agency viz MMTC was immediately ad-

vised to rush a delegation to Jordan and sort out the matter. MMTC has since received further orders for export of wheat to Jordan.

Statement

Export of Wheat

Qty. in Tonnes

Country	1990-91	1991-92 Upto 18-11-91
Total	2,01,257	4,58,503
Of which		
Korea DPR	76,489	1,38,000
Sudan	35,768	35,140
Jordan	89,000	1,96,000
Oman	—	6,000
Malaysia	—	58,226
U.A.E.	—	25,137

PM's calls for promotion of exports

1014. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while inaugurating the silver jubilee celebrations of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), the Prime Minister emphasised economic reforms to promote exports, by diversifying the export basket, with special emphasis on exports from agricultural sector;

(b) if so, what further steps are contemplated in that direction; and

(c) what action have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) and (c) The Government introduced a package of trade policy reforms aimed at strengthening of export incentives, eliminating substantial volume of import licensing and optimal import compression. REP licences have been replaced by a new instrument named Exim Scrips. These will be the means of obtaining access to certain categories of imports of raw materials, components and spares. The system of advance licensing as an instrument of export promotion has also been strengthened. Government has decided to allow established exporters to open Foreign currency accounts in approved banks and allow exporters to raise external credits, pay for export related imports from such accounts, and credit export proceeds to such accounts. Besides, Government have taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with selected countries, interaction with national organisations of trade and industry, etc.

Export Policy in respect of certain agricultural commodities have been liberalised by shifting of items which were earlier subject to ceiling to the list of items allowed for export under OGL, by decontrolling the export of selected agricul-